

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL / COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES / TOLLAND GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HYBRID MEETING 6TH FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR ZOOM

JUNE 29, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order.
2. Discussion of the Historic Stone Walkway Study prepared by TO Design @ FHI Studio.
3. Consideration of a resolution to transfer \$3,750 from the Town Contingency FY 2021/2022 account to the Wanat donations account, to fund the Wanat Senior Conservation Area through Phase III.
4. Adjournment.

To Join the Zoom Meeting, either click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87184972145?pwd=cOoo70UX3qnmsa3holshxXE82zKqTR.1>

Or call: 1-646-876-9923 and input:

Meeting ID: 871 8497 2145

Password: 06292022

Agenda Item #2

AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Discussion of the Historic Stone Walkway Study prepared by TO Design @ FHI Studio.

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: June 29, 2022

ITEM SUMMARY: The Town requested that TO Design @ FHI Studio complete an evaluation on the historic sidewalks in the Tolland Green Historic District and provide options to achieve ADA accessibility, with consideration for the historic location.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: TBD

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A.

COUNCIL ACTION DESIRED: Discussion.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

- Historic Stone Walkway Study
- Questions from Town Council Chair, Steve Jones

Historic Stone Walkway Study

Tolland Green Historic District

June 2022

“

There is no silver bullet when it comes to inexpensive, durable and aesthetically pleasing paving in historic settings.

”



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Repair and Adjust Historic Walks to Meet Accessibility Standards

Establish Accessible Walkway in Carriage Drive



Executive Summary

TO Design @ FHI Studio was engaged by the Town of Tolland in 2022 to evaluate the existing stone walkways on Route 74 and Carriage Road adjacent to the Town Green in the Tolland Green Historic District.

According to the National Register of Historic Places, the walks along Rt. 74 may date from the second half of the 19th century.

The walks are predominantly stone along Route 195 and a mix of stone, concrete and bituminous concrete along Carriage Road. Approximately ½ of the walks along Route 74 are beyond the public Right of Way, and on Private property. Overall the stone walks are in varying conditions from badly cracked, heaved or sunken to some with a relatively level surface.

The Tolland Green Historic District is a significant resource for the town of Tolland in that it retains its 19th century scale, charm and sense of place. As stated in the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form:

“The Tolland Green Historic District is significant for its landscape qualities as a relatively original-appearing village green; for its historical associations with institutions and people important in the development of the area as a town center; and for the architectural qualities of its buildings, many of which represent well-preserved examples of particular periods and styles of architecture.”

Judging from correspondence supplied, the walkways have been a source of continuing discussion for several years. Town commissions have conflicting goals, with the Commission on People with Disability's desiring a consistently level and easily traversed walkway that meets current ADA accessibility standards and the Historic District Commission's desire to retain the historic stone walkways much as is.

FHI Studio met with the Commission on People with Disability's on April 13, 2022 and the Historic District Commission on April 20, 2022. From those meetings a series of possible solutions was generated and are provided in this report.

Existing Conditions

The stone walkways are of varying materials alignment and widths. The width of the stone walkways varies from 24" to 48". Many of the stones in the granite travel path are unleveled, out of alignment and cracked. Generally the walkways are on private property along Route 195 and within the street Right of Way on Carriage Road.

Regulations and Guidelines

It should be noted that a municipality is not obligated to provide a public sidewalk in or adjacent to the Street Right of Way, only to provide an accessible path from the parking area into a public building. Tolland appears to have satisfied that requirement at the Tolland Green. If public walks are provided then the walk must comply as closely as possible with The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings & Facilities (ADAAG) and the international Building Code (IBC) as adopted by the State of Connecticut. Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines go further than ADAAG in defining best practices but as of May 2022 these guidelines are advisory and not mandatory.

Many of the historic walks at the Tolland Green are on private property. The front sidewalk is not required to be accessible if an alternate accessible route is provided (commercial properties). There is no ADAAG requirement for private residences.

ADAAG guidelines for accessible routes that pertain to the historic walks are as follows:

- » A max ¼" lip is allowed
- » A max. ½" horizontal gap is allowed
- » Surface must be firm stable and slip resistant
- » Width should be four foot minimum
- » 2% maximum Cross slope
- » 5% maximum longitudinal slope

Also relevant to the discussion is the fact that both the Historic District Commission and the Commission on People with Disabilities are advisory only in this situation.



Options

Reset and repair existing Stone walks

The existing sidewalk materials are not particularly an issue with meeting accessibility standards. They have heaved and are not level, but they can be reset to meet the requirement of no greater than ¼" lip. It's ok to have different materials (bluestone, granite, and concrete) as long as the transition between the materials is level or within tolerances per the attached diagrams.

Replace historic stone walks with new stone walks

Install concrete walks parallel to historic walks on Route 74

Install stone dust or asphalt Walks parallel to historic walks on Route 74

Repair and expand historic stone walks

Establish a walkway in Carriage Road

Add stone dust edge to repaired historic walks



Adjacent Concrete Walk

Pros

All weather, accessible, durable surface
Satisfies Accessibility Commission
Will meet all accessibility standards

Cons

Two walk system in many areas
Does not satisfy historic commission



Adjacent Stone Walk

Pros

All weather, accessible, durable surface
Satisfies Accessibility Commission
Will meet all accessibility standards

Cons

Parallel walk system in many areas
Does not satisfy historic commission
Cost



Adjacent Stone Dust Walk

Pros

- Cost effective
- Can meet accessibility standards if maintained
- Material is compatible with architecture and ambiance

Cons

- Has to be maintained (raked and compacted)
- Surface will be soft and irregular if not maintained
- Will be a trip hazard if not meticulously maintained



Adjacent Stone Dust Section

| Pros | Cons |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Cost effective | Has to be maintained (raked and compacted) |
| Can meet accessibility standards if maintained | Surface will be soft and irregular if not maintained |
| Material is compatible with architecture and ambiance of district | Will be a trip hazard if not meticulously maintained |



Repair and Adjust Historic Walks to Meet Accessibility Standards

| Pros | Cons |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Maintains historic look and continuum | Has to be maintained (raked and compacted) |
| Satisfies Historic Commission | Surface will be soft and irregular if not maintained |
| Can meet accessibility standards | Surface will still be irregular |
| Material is compatible with architecture and ambiance of district | Cost |
| Historic continuum is maintained | |



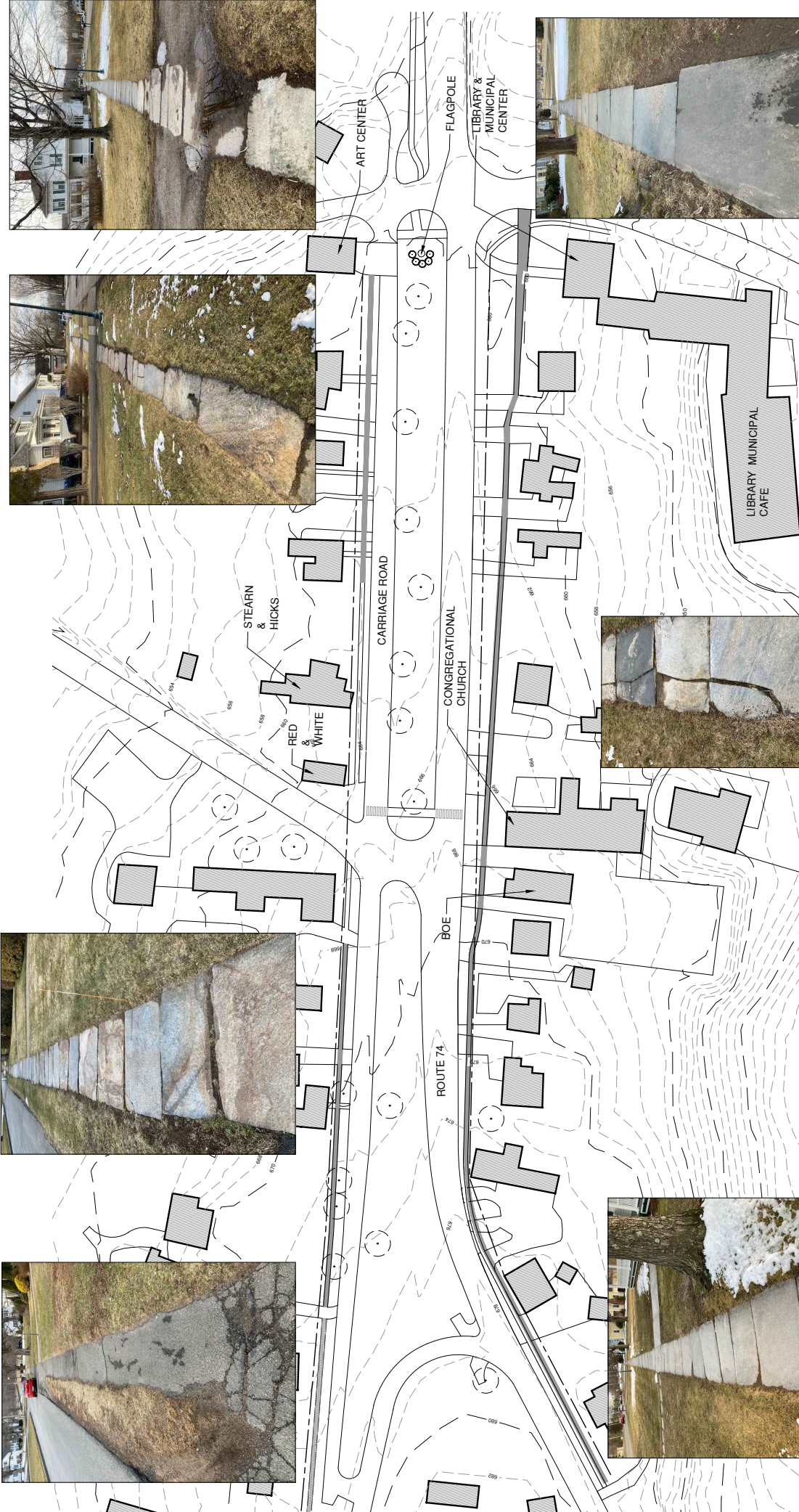
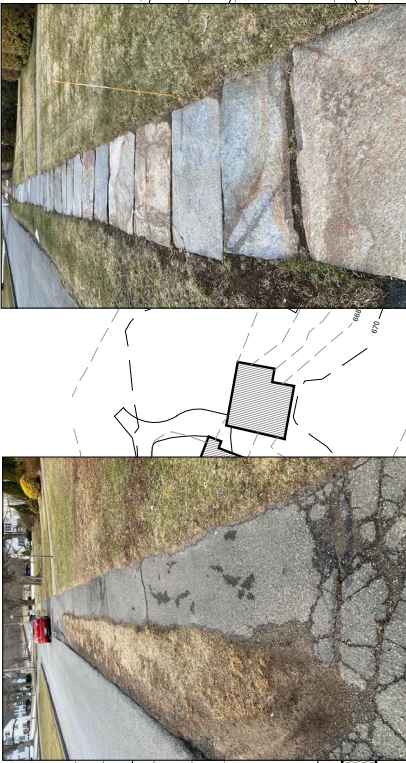
Establish Accessible Walkway in Carriage Drive

Pros

Cost effective
Can meet accessibility standards if maintained

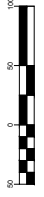
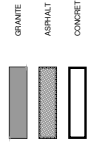
Cons

Limited protection from traffic
Loss of parking



TOLLAND GREEN, TOLLAND

LEGEND
EXISTING



Tolland Green Probable Sidewalk Replacement / Repair Costs

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • New Concrete Walk | \$150,000 - \$200,000 |
| • New Stone Dust Walk | \$75,000 - \$100,000 |
| • New Stone Walk | \$420,000 - \$500,000 |
| • Repair Stone Walk to be accessible | \$150,000 - \$180,000 |
| • Delineated walk area within Carriage Drive | \$25,000 - \$50,000 |
| • Stone Dust strip along existing walks | \$30,000 - \$50,000 |



**Historic Stone
Walkway Study**
Tolland Green Historic District

June 2022

Questions from Council Chair, Steve Jones.

Answers in RED provided by Scott Lappen, Director of Public Works.

1. Has the public works department been provided a copy of the study YES and have any general thoughts or opinions on the options provided in the study? Additionally, despite the fact that the sidewalks are considered private, does the town clear or do ongoing maintenance of any of these walkways for private residents? NO WE DON'T Or do they only manage those spaces that are deemed town property or are responsible for regular upkeep? THE DPW CLEARS ONLY THE SECTIONS OF SIDEWALKS THAT HAVE BEEN DEEMED TO BE ON TOWN PROPERTY OR WITHIN THE STATE ROW, AS THEY DO NOT CLEAR SIDEWALKS. NO OTHER MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN DONE TO THE EXISTING SIDEWALKS AS THEY ARE VERY BRITTLE AND TEND TO BREAK EASILY. ANY REPAIRS SHOULD BE DONE BY A QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR WHO IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING THESE STONES AND RESETTING THEM WITH NO DAMAGE TO THEM.
2. Staying on the responsibility aspect of these walkways, if the town were to consider the Repair/Adjust option, who would maintain them? I WOULD SUGGEST THAT A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR BE GIVEN THAT TASK. Additionally, if there is ever a fall on these walkways and an individual considers legal action, who are they allowed to seek damages from - the town or the resident? TOWN ATTORNEY This goes back to the concern that many these walkways are deemed private, but are currently being proposed to be worked on using town funds to make them accessible based on the study. Do we have permission to even do this work if that option was deemed most suitable? TA
3. The adjacent Stone/Concrete walks seem to have clear favor/opposition from the two other groups involved in this discussion (The COPwD wants either, the Historic Commission wants neither from my reading). However, I do not see any opinions on the stone dust options (adjacent walk or section). Did either group provide input on this option? Or were both indifferent to this choice. Additionally, is there a reason the parallel walk system is seen as a con for the concrete/stone options, but is not mentioned as a possible 'con' for the stone dust?
4. Continuing on the stone dust selection, do we have any info from other towns on their stone dust pathways (notable example - Lebanon Town Green space) and the pros/cons of their use of that style of walkway? COMPACTED STONE DOES NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE DRAINAGE WHICH MAY RESULT IN PUDDLES, MUDDY CONDITIONS OR FROZEN AREAS DURING THE COLDER MONTHS. Stone dust seems to be the best option provided thus far from a cost perspective, aesthetics and accessibility, and consistency with other ADA compliant projects in town like the Wanat Park/Conservation Area. The main concern is maintaining and ensuring it is safe/level, but does the town have the necessary equipment to tend to these possibly new walkways and keep them accessible throughout the year. WHILE STONE DUST COMPACTS TO A RELATIVELY HARD SURFACE,

IT IS MEANT TO BE MORE OF A BASE THAN A WEAR COURSE. AS PEOPLE TRAVERSE OVER THE STONE DUST UNDOUBTEDLY THEY WILL CAUSE RUTS FROM WHEEL CHAIRS, BICYCLES OR FROM PEOPLE (CHILDREN PLAYING IN THE STONE DUST) WHICH WILL THEN REQUIRE ATTENTION SO PEOPLE USING WALKERS, CRUTCHES OR CANES (VISUALLY IMPAIRED) DON'T TRIP AND FALL. THESE STONE DUST SIDEWALKS WILL PROBABLY HAVE GRASS AND WEEDS THAT WILL GROW WITHIN THEM WHICH WILL HAVE TO PULLED OR SPRAYED TO KILL THEM. MOWING THE EDGES OF THESE AREAS MAY CAST SMALL STONES INTO THE SURROUNDING AREAS WHICH MAY THEN BECOME AIRBORNE WHEN THE MOWER GOES OVER THEM, LASTLY, SNOW CLEARING A SURFACE LIKE THIS IS VERY CHALLENGING. USING A SMALL SNOW PLOW WILL PROBABLY SCRAPE AND REMOVE SOME OF THE MATERIAL, A SNOW THROWER WILL SEND ANYTHING THAT IS NOT FROZEN FLYING THROUGH THE AIR AND UTILIZING A SWEEPR WIL CAT LOOSE STONES INTO THE SURROUNDING AREAS. HOW WILL THE CROSSING OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS WITH STONE DUST BE ADDRESSED?

5. A more general question, but with the potential to create a new walkway, would this extend the historic preservation or 'life' of the current walkways? **NOT IN MY OPINION, THESE STONES HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MANY YEARS AND THE ONLY REAL VISIBLE DAMAGE IS FROM THEM CRACKING WHICH IS EITHER FROM VEHICLES BEING DRIVEN OVER THEM OR FROM FROST HEAVES.** Assuming individuals would have multiple choices now, it seems reasonable to assume the historic sidewalks may see reduced traffic.
6. For the carriage Drive area, is there enough space to create a walkway or stone dust adjacent section? Or is the final option shared that removes parking the only option for that area of the green outside of resetting/repairing those stones as needed? I would be concerned about the loss of parking in that area personally for the number of residents that use it for various events and the residents on the carriage road who use that space for additional vehicles when having guests/contractors at their home.

Agenda Item #3

AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Consideration of a resolution to transfer \$3,750 from the Town Contingency FY 2021/2022 account to the Wanat donations account, to fund the Wanat Senior Conservation Area through Phase III.

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: June 29, 2022

ITEM SUMMARY:

The Tolland Conservation Commission is continuing their efforts to complete the Wanat Senior Conservation Area. In order to complete Phase III, the Conservation Commission anticipates a need of \$3,750 to purchase and install a 32' long ADA-accessible footbridge and install a path to the silo on the property.

The Wanat Senior Conservation Area efforts have been largely funded by donations and the donation account currently has a fund balance of \$3,538.08 in available monies. Additionally, the Conservation Commission was able to secure grant funding from SustainableCT and the AARP to assist with construction of Phase I and Phase II of the project. At the end of the last fiscal year, the Town committed \$4,100 materials to assist with these efforts and the Public Works Department provided an additional \$3,632 in additional materials and labor to help facilitate completion.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: The Conservation Commission is requesting that \$3,750 from the FY 2021/2022 Town Contingency account be transferred to the Wanat donations account for completion of Phase III of the Wanat Senior Conservation Area.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A.

COUNCIL ACTION DESIRED: Discussion.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

- Wanat Cost Estimate Narrative
- Wanat Cost Estimate Spreadsheet
- Tolland Conservation Corps Spring 2022 Interim Report
- Draft Resolution

Date: June 22, 2022
To: Tolland Conservation Commission
Subject: Wanat Senior Conservation Park, Phase III Cost Proposal
From: TCC Head Steward, Bob Rubino
Approved by: Conservation Commission Chair, Jim Hutton

Current Status

Community awareness of the Conservation Park is growing as we continue to hold outreach programs at this one-of-a-kind conservation park. Most notably of these programs was the Senior Outreach held at noon on June 18 and the Acoustic Campfire Under the Stars program later in the evening that same day. By her own initiative, Becky Ellert of the Senior Center, is now conducting weekly 'chair yoga' programs (weather permitting) using the Labyrinth area for her yoga class.



Wanat Senior Conservation Park Chair Yoga

Spring 2022



Wanat Senior Conservation Park: Chair Yoga

Spring 2022

The success and genuine community excitement by Park visitors have caused some to cite this as one of the best examples of what can be accomplished by the intersection of governmental support and community volunteerism.

Finances

Work continues at the Wanat Senior Conservation Park at a good pace. Currently, all of the Phase I tasks have been completed and Phase II is underway with completion slated for the end of July. At the time of this report, after Phase II expenditures of \$2,548.25, the Wanat Senior Conservation Park account has a balance of \$3,538.08.

Phase III

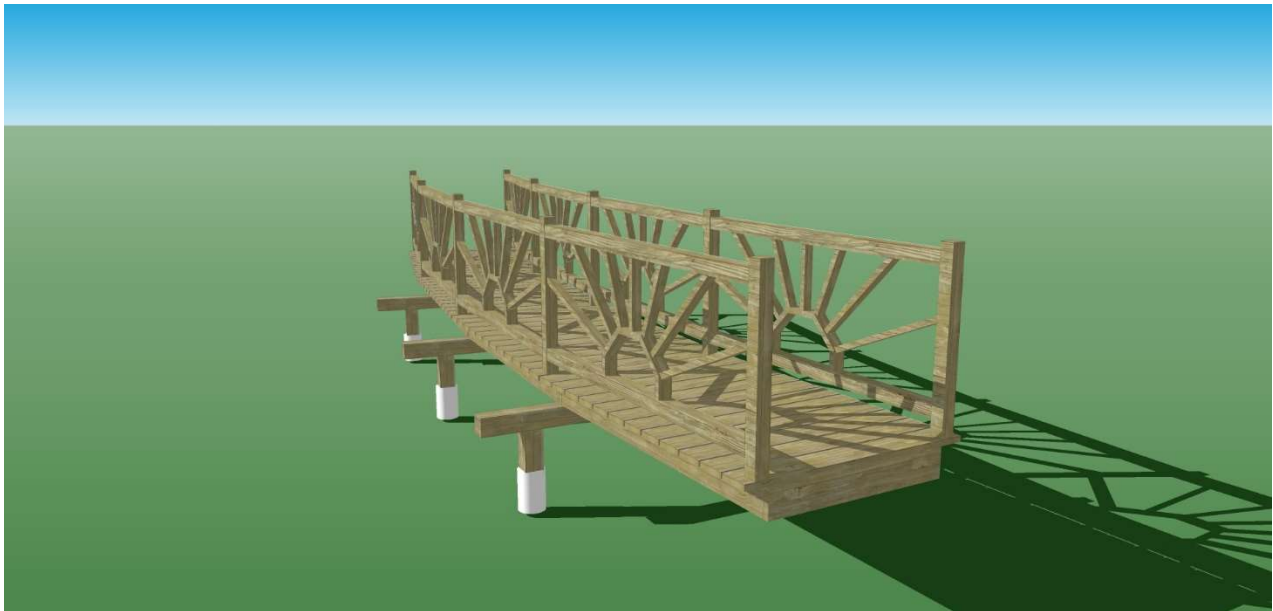
To complete Phase II, we will need to take delivery of another 18 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ " processed gravel costing \$700. This will leave \$2,838.08 for the Phase III construction of an ADA compliant footbridge and path to the silo. The planned 32-foot-long bridge is of an Adirondack style railing that is a minimum of 48" wide to accommodate pedestrian traffic of persons with mobility handicap, i.e., people confined to wheelchairs, walkers or the visually impaired walking with service animals. Due to the wet location of the footbridge, it is desired the walking surface be of a non-slip textured solid PVC product that will not support growth of

biologics that can become slippery when wet. Choice of a PVC decking product represents an added cost of \$2,500 over that of more traditional pressure treated Yellow Pine, but consideration of safety, maintenance aspects and twice the life expectancy of the PVC product makes this a wise investment for this application.

Cost Proposal

The proposed cost of this bridge including 5-foot-long ramps at both the bridge entrance and exit is \$5,146. This includes a 20% contingency to accommodate volatile pricing of building supplies in the current economy. Construction of the footpath and gravel surround of the silo will require an additional 18 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ " processed gravel at \$700.

With \$2,838.08 remaining after the completion of Phase II, \$5,146 for the bridge and \$700 for the footpath leaves a shortfall of approximately \$3,750 (rounded up to the nearest \$50) that will need to be raised for project completion.



Wanat Estimate for Remaining Phase II & Phase III Tasks
B. Rubino, 6/20/22

| Bridge | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|------|-------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Item | Qty | Description | Unit | Price | Discount | Ext | Link | | |
| 1 | 10 | 8" x 48" Concrete tube form | ea | 11.98 | 5% | \$ 113.81 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Sakrete-Common-8-in-Actual-7-5-in-48-in-Concrete-Tube-Form/3037032 | | |
| 2 | 10 | 6"x6" Concrete base | ea | 57.98 | 5% | \$ 550.81 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Simpson-Strong-Tie-Steel-G185-Post-Base-Common-6-in-Actual-5-in/1002623524 | | |
| 3 | 10 | 1/2" Concrete J-bolt, washer and galvanized nut | ea | 1.68 | 5% | \$ 15.96 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-1-2-in-x-8-in-Anchor-Bolt/4395613 | | |
| 4 | 2 | 6x6"x8" Pressure Treated Posts | ea | 26.98 | 5% | \$ 51.27 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-6-in-x-6-in-x-8-ft-Actual-5-5-in-x-5-5-in-x-8-ft-2-Treated-Lumber/4222517 | | |
| 5 | 16 | 2x8"x8" Pressure Treated Joists | ea | 12.47 | 5% | \$ 189.55 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-2-in-x-8-in-x-8-ft-Actual-1-5-in-x-7-25-in-x-8-ft-2-Prime-Treated-Lumber/4564744 | | |
| 6 | 10 | 2x8"x10' Pressure Treated Headers | ea | 21.38 | 5% | \$ 203.11 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-2-in-x-8-in-x-10-ft-Actual-1-5-in-x-7-25-in-x-10-ft-2-Prime-Treated-Lumber/4564748 | | |
| 7 | 8 | 4x4"x8' Pressure Treated Railing Top/Bottom Rail | ea | 10.58 | 5% | \$ 80.41 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-4-in-x-4-in-x-8-ft-Actual-3-5-in-x-3-5-in-x-8-ft-2-Treated-Lumber/50121083 | | |
| 8 | 5 | 4x4"x10" Pressure Railing Post Cross Brace | ea | 16.18 | 5% | \$ 76.86 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-4-in-x-4-in-x-10-ft-Actual-3-5-in-x-3-5-in-x-10-ft-2-Treated-Lumber/4222509 | | |
| 9 | 20 | 2x4"x8' Pressure Treated Ballusters | ea | 6.48 | 100% | \$ - | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-2-in-x-4-in-x-8-ft-Actual-1-5-in-x-3-5-in-x-8-ft-2-Prime-Treated-Lumber/4564608 | | |
| 10 | 5 | 4x6"x8' Pressure Treated Railing Posts | ea | 19.78 | 100% | \$ - | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-4-in-x-6-in-x-8-ft-Actual-3-5-in-x-5-5-in-x-8-ft-2-Treated-Lumber/4222527 | | |
| 11 | 20 | 1/2"x7" Galvanized Anchor Base Bolt | ea | 2.98 | 5% | \$ 56.62 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-1-2-in-x-7-in-Galvanized-Coarse-Thread-Hex-Bolt/1000381937 | | |
| 12 | 20 | 1/2" Galvanized Washers | ea | 0.42 | 5% | \$ 7.98 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-1-Count-0-531-in-x-Hot-Dipped-Galvanized-Standard-SAE-Flat-Washer/3036837 | | |
| 13 | 20 | 1/2" Galvanized Bolts | ea | 0.48 | 5% | \$ 9.12 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-1-2-in-x-13-Galvanized-Steel-Hex-Nut/3037536 | | |
| 14 | 2 | Flashing Tape | ea | 31.68 | 5% | \$ 60.20 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/ZIP-System-Panel-Tape/3594044 | | |
| 15 | 4 | 2x6"x10' Pressure Treated Ramp Joists | ea | 10.57 | 5% | \$ 40.17 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-2-in-x-6-in-x-10-ft-Actual-1-5-in-x-5-5-in-x-10-ft-2-Prime/4564618 | | |
| 16 | 1 | 2x6"x8' Pressure Treated Ramp Footer | ea | 7.78 | 5% | \$ 7.40 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-2-in-x-6-in-x-8-ft-Actual-1-5-in-x-5-5-in-x-8-ft-2-Prime-Treated-Lumber/4564606 | | |
| 17 | 30 | Wolf Harbor Grey PVC Decking 1x6"x 16' | ea | 76.76 | 0% | \$ 2,302.80 | Eastford Building Supply Quote | | |
| 18 | 4 | Wolf Harbor Grey PVC Decking 1x6"x 16' | ea | 76.76 | 0% | \$ 307.04 | Eastford Building Supply Quote | | |
| 19 | 1 | Cortex Harbor Grey Deck Screws | box | 60.79 | 0% | \$ 60.79 | Eastford Building Supply Quote | | |
| 20 | 20 | Concrete 5000 psi 80lb bag | ea | 6.38 | 5% | \$ 121.22 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/QUIKRETE-ProFinish-5000-80-lb-High-Strength-Concrete-Mix/3026897 | | |
| 21 | 1 | 3" coated construction screws | ea | 34.98 | 5% | \$ 33.24 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Deck-Plus-10-x-3-in-Ceramic-Deck-Screws-5-lb/1000318525 | | |
| | | Sub-Total | | | | \$ 4,288.36 | | | |
| | | | | | | \$ 5,146.03 | Bridge sub-total with 20% contingency | | |
| Gravel Path | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 36 yards 3/4" Processed Gravel delivered | | | | \$ 1,400.00 | Bogner's Landscape Supply | | |
| | | Sub-Total | | | | \$ 1,400.00 | | | |
| Total to Close Phase II & Phase III | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | \$ 5,688.36 | | | |
| | | | | | | \$ 6,546.03 | Bridge total with 20% contingency and PVC boards | | |
| 17 | 30 | 5/4" Pressure Treated 1x6"x16' | ea | 16.88 | 5% | \$ 481.08 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-5-4-in-x-6-in-x-16-ft-Actual-1-in-x-5-5-in-x-16-ft-Premium-Treated-Lumber/4564796 | | |
| 18 | 4 | 5/4" Pressure Treated 1x6"x16' | ea | 16.88 | 5% | \$ 64.15 | https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-5-4-in-x-6-in-x-16-ft-Actual-1-in-x-5-5-in-x-16-ft-Premium-Treated-Lumber/4564796 | | |
| | | Yellow Pine Total = | | | | \$ 545.23 | \$ 654.28 | | |
| | | PVC Total = | | | | \$ 2,609.84 | \$ 3,131.81 | | |
| | | | | | | \$ (2,064.61) | \$ (2,477.53) difference between PT pine boards and PVC boards | | |

Date: June 21, 2022

To: Tolland Conservation Commission

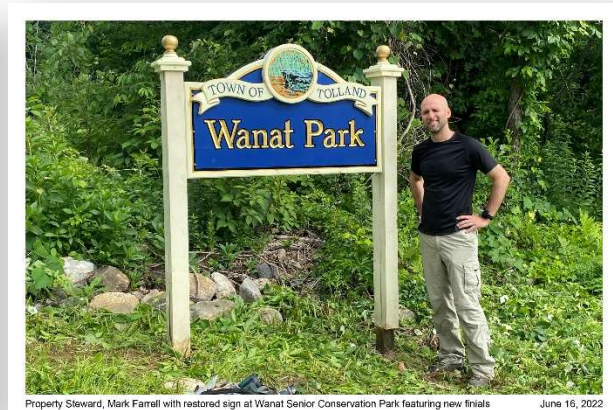
Subject: Tolland Conservation Corps Interim Report: Spring 2022

From: TCC Head Steward, Bob Rubino

Spring 2022 has seen a return to a more typical cadence of six Conservation Corps Trail Days with plans for continued work on Phase II of the Wanat Senior Conservation Park located at 117 Sugar Hill Road. Use of the hiking trails continues to wane somewhat after the peak of the pandemic in 2020. That said, Tolland's Open Space trail system continues to see relatively heavy use which is likely a result of new hikers discovering "Tolland's hidden gems" of Open Space properties during the pandemic.

Trail Days

The Corps hosted 5 publicly advertised Trail Days supported by 35 individual volunteers from the community contributing 196.5 person-hours to the maintenance of Tolland's Open Space. Nearly 44 additional hours were performed during smaller 1-2 person tasks working on more focused activities such as burning off the brush pile of Autumn Olive at the King Property or repairing and repainting the 20-year-old sign for the Wanat Property avoiding the cost of a purchasing a new sign.



Below is a summary of this year's Trail Day events:

| Trail Day Event | Task | Date | Volunteers | Hours | Person-Hours |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|--------------|
| King | Burn off Brush Pile | 2/6/2022 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| Stoppeworth | Replace Boardwalk | 4/9/2022 | 10 | 3 | 30 |
| Wanat | Install signs, plant Linden Trees | 4/23/2022 | 14 | 2.5 | 35 |
| Schindler/Schmidt | Repair K2 Bridge/Gravel Lot | 5/7/2022 | 11 | 3 | 33 |
| Stoppeworth | Steppingstones/Ridge Trail | 5/21/2022 | 11 | 2 | 22 |
| Wanat | Excavate TCW Path | 6/2/2022 | 2 | 6 | 12 |
| Wanat | TCW Conversation Spot/Trail | 6/4/2022 | 19 | 3.5 | 66.5 |
| Wanat | Repair and Repaint Wanat Sign | 6/14/2022 | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| Wanat | Install Wanat Park Sign | 6/16/2022 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Stoppeworth | Stage Stairway Material | 6/18/2022 | 5 | 2 | 10 |
| Becker | Cut Invasives | 6/21/2022 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Weigold | Repair dam bridge | 6/24/2022 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Luce | Pin Charter Bridge | 6/27/2022 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Total Spring 2022 = | | | | | 240.5 |

Of notable interest, Phase II of the Wanat Senior Conservation Park has commenced with half of the 650' path to the conversation spot located at Nell's Glenn completed at the time of this report. Completion of Phase II is planned for later this summer using smaller teams working before or after the heat of the day. In total the Corps has contributed 240.5 volunteer hours for the Spring 2022 work season.

Wanat Senior Conservation Park Trail Cru, June 4, 2022



R., L. & N. Audette, S. & M. Friedman, D. Jakoboski, J. Sisson, B. Byers, B. Nivison, R. McCann, D. Vines, J. Simao, J. Doyle, S. LaPlante J., J. & S. Graham not available for group photo



Stoppeworth Trail Repair: R. & L. Audette, D. Vines & B. Nivison May 21, 2022



Stoppeworth: J. Simao, S. LaPlante, N. Audette & D. Vines April 9, 2022



Wanat Senior Conservation Area: American Linden Sapling April 23, 2022

Corporate Generosity

Corporate citizenship continues to help the Corps stretch the Tolland Tax Payer's dollar. This spring, Schindler/Schmidt property steward Chris Schultz's employer, National Building Products (NBP) of East Hartford donated \$2,282 worth of pressure treated 4x6" timbers and 2x4" boards. Though not meeting NBP's construction standards, the Corps has put this material to good use to replace a bridge at Schindler/Schmidt and is planning to use another portion of the material for the planned Adirondack-style foot bridge at the Wanat Senior Conservation Park later this summer.

Conservation Partner Contributions

Eagle Scout candidate Anthony Harkins successfully completed his Eagle Scout project building two "Beaver Deceivers" at the Knofla South pond. The first "deceiver" prevents the resident beavers from damming up water rushing into the dam culvert and the second breaches the beaver dam currently blocking the emergency spillway. As a result the water level of the Knofla pond has been lowered by nearly 30" reducing the hydraulic stress threatening the earthen dam and allowing hikers to use the half-mile trail along the eastern side of the pond.



Anthony Harkins Eagle Project: "Beaver Deceiver", culvert protection (l), dam breach (r)

New Beginnings



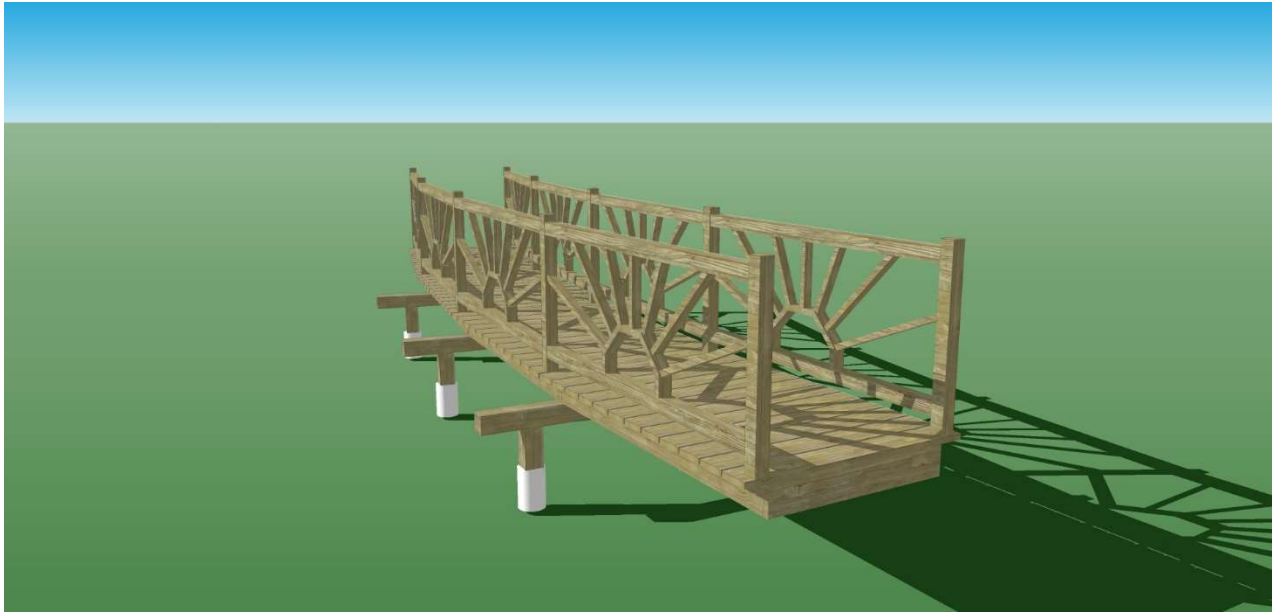
J. Sisson, Schindler-Schmidt Conservation Property, Tolland, CT October 5, 2013

After 9 years of stewarding the Becker Conservation Property, Jon Sisson regrettably resigned his stewardship citing time restrictions and lingering chronic injuries making it difficult for Jon to fulfill his stewardship obligations (his words). I suspect, hard-worker that he is, Jon will be no stranger to our Trail Day events bringing his trusty long-reach loppers and satchel of electric power tools.

Stepping into Jon's shoes will be long-time Corps volunteer, Jean Graham and her husband Jonathan. Their son Cameron conducted his Eagle Project at Parciak, building rain-bars and replanting an eroded trail with native plants. Cameron is now a Senior at UConn studying environmental engineering. He and his classmates recently conducted a wildlife management plan for the Knofla South Property. Jean and Jon, letting no moss grow under their shoes, are off to a quick start cutting back the encroachment of multi-flora rose that annually threatens hikers on the bridge that enters this beautiful river front property.

On the Horizon

Phase III of the development of the Wanat Senior Conservation Park will include an Adirondack style bridge connecting the Nell's Glen trail to the Silo. According to Project Lead, Ryan McCann, TCC Assistant Head Steward, we want to minimize our impact to this fragile wetland ecosystem by conducting our work at the driest time of the year. We will commence digging of the concrete pilings of this 32 foot-long bridge at the end of July and completing the bridge in time for local art students to paint pastoral murals befitting the Wanat Park history in time for the Fall Semester.



Happy Trails

Agenda Item #3

Consideration of a resolution to transfer \$3,750 from the FY 2021/2022 Town Contingency account to the Wanat donations account, to fund the Wanat Senior Conservation Area through Phase III.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby approves the transfer of \$3,750 from the FY 2021/2022 Town Contingency account (18900072-744700) to the Wanat donations account, to fund the Wanat Senior Conservation Area through Phase III.

Approved by the Tolland Town Council on _____, 2022.